

## UTILITY PLAYERS ARE VERY SCARCE

Big Leaguers Specialize Certain Positions and Stick to Them.

Specialism is the order of the day in baseball. Every player seems to fit himself to some one job, and sticks to that position until the crack of doom. Of course, necessity often forces a shift, and the man who is shifted often finds that he can do even better in his new position, but most players try to remain anchored to one job year after year. Even the utility men are specialists to-day. Instead of one fellow having class enough to fill in at any place, either outfield or in, two are now required, one to play the garden and the other to take up work inside the diamond. Quicker and often annoying to the captains and the managers.

Artie Hoffman, now playing regularly in the outfield, was one of the last of the great utility men. Hoffman could play seven positions and play them all with speed and skill. So clever was Artie in this all-round work that he was kept as general utility man for years, when he was really a better outfielder than men who had the regular positions. Now that he is in the pasture for keeps, where is there another to compare with him as a filler-in of seven places?

**Bresnahan Versatile.**  
Roger Bresnahan is only man now in the fast company who has played all nine positions in the big league and played them well. Isbell, of the Sox, has played eight places, and played them grandly, but was shaky when he tried to catch, playing back of the bat, for only a few innings. But Bresnahan has one place the better of the old Is. Roger has pitched—and pitched finely—in the big league, and in the minors was mainly noted as a hurler. His work in all the positions of the out and infield was highly classy, and we all know how great he is as a catcher.

**Low McAllister.** who left the big league a few years ago, also played all the nine positions, pitching and catching with almost equal skill, and taking care of the other seven jobs wherever needed. Jack Doyle—pitcher, rock-thrower Jack—played eight positions, starting as a catcher and doing everything but slab duty. Big Bill Lange caught, played first, second, third left and center for Anson. Bill Dahlan played second, third, short and two outfield places.

One of the best all-round men—still doing duty in the minors—is Wally Woods. Wally has played all of the nine positions, and has shown ability in all of them. He is no longer young, yet during the past six years, on first, eleven games at second, fifty-one on third, forty-one at short, caught eighteen and pitched two or three for luck.

**All Around Work.**

Kane, of the Cubs, is a corking all-around player, capable of telling either infield or out, though he was called on but seldom last summer. Storke, now of the Cardinals, played first, second, third and short with credit. DelHow-

## LATEST ADDITION TO HOLD-OUT BAND



CHARLIE STREET.

ard, of the Cubs, is good in the garden, on first, second or at short. John Hummel, of Brooklyn, is a real star at all around work. He was seen on first, second, short and the outfield during the season.

Isbell, of the White Sox, as has already been mentioned, has always been a wonder at general work. Davy Allier, who is also with Comiskey now, can take care of any job on either infield or suburbs. Bob Unglaub, originally a catcher, is in good form at first, second, third or the field. Jack Knight, of the Highlanders, a shortstop by trade, can also take care of himself on first, second or third. Walter, of the Boston Red Sox, is not only a clever left-handed pitcher, but a good first baseman or outfielder.

could get the ball going right. Just as soon as summer rolled around my trouble vanished. There's where Carl Lundgren had it on a lot of pitchers. He could go at top speed in the coldest kind of weather, a mighty valuable attainment.

Just a word or two on the "spit-ball." I tried to master it some time ago, but gave up after a few experiments. Pitchers grow old in baseball all too soon, and there isn't any reason in hastening the exit. The spit-ball slowly but surely tells on the pitcher who uses it altogether, whereas the curve ball or old-time "round-house," when properly mixed with other curves, doesn't wear on the user's arm. Jack Chesbro established his record of fourteen straight victories pitching the "spit-ball." I equaled the record last summer and never monkeyed with the moist ball.

No pitcher can hang up a string of consecutive victories without the aid of a marvellously perfected teamwork behind him. Take the Cubs, for instance. The infield is the most formidable in every department ever assembled. Roughly speaking, I should say three in every four balls batted across the diamond are into territory covered by Tinker or Evers. The speed with which Chance, Johnny, Joe and Steiny cover the ground is a mighty big handicap to any opposing team. With-out this glittering support the Cub pitchers couldn't hope to keep the club on top or fighting for the leadership.

A batter who specializes on "inside" balls is usually the easiest sort of meat for a pitcher who can control and put the ball over on the "outside." Thus an inside hitter is forced to claim the second or short position rather than to third. Honus Wagner is an artist in this respect, still I have a higher regard for Fred Clarke's hitting ability than for Wagner's.

The only way to handle Wagner

with success is to outguess him. He has a great faculty of meeting the high balls. Wagner, owing to his physical make-up, is a dangerous batter against any pitcher. If he is set for a fast one "inside" it's a safe bet he will clout it a mile. If you can fool him by the delivery the chances are he will strike out or pop one to the infielders.

Every pitcher in the league has a different delivery against Wagner. Jack Taylor, the former Cub, was especially effective against Honus Brown pitches one or two of his favorites against Wagner and succeeds. In a double-header last summer Brown cooled Honus on a fast drop ball in the first game. In the second I worked and had no trouble deceiving the terrible hitter with a speedy curve, inside and low.

Manager Guance never spoke with greater truth than when he said most of the batters of the last twelve years have been "high ball" hitters. That's because most of the pitchers have been putting the ball high. "Cy" Young, of Cleveland, is one of the veterans of the old school in this respect, just as Kid Nichols was years ago when a member of the Boston Club.

Fans who like to discuss the relative speed of the various pitchers as a rule are wrong in their assertions. No one pitcher can show more speed with a ball at sixty feet, the length of the present slab, than any other. One day the pitcher may have the smoke of a bullet, and the next, chances are, he will be lucky to get anything on the ball. Over a longer slab one pitcher might loom up better than any of his contemporaries.

Many managers make grievous mistakes by trying to convert free, natural rule into a controlled and artificial one. Bescher, of Cincinnati, always has been a natural right-hand batter. I knew him first as a student at Notre Dame, and he showed considerable promise while in college. Clark Griffith tried to swing Bob to the other side of the plate, and what followed? Bescher's hitting took a big slump.

## NEGROES RAISE \$100,000 POOL TO BET ON JOHNSON

Boston, February 5.—One hundred thousand dollars. The negroes of Boston and its suburbs have practically made all arrangements to raise that amount of money for a pool to be bet on Jack Johnson when he enters the ring July 4 to fight James Jeffries for the championship of the world.

The pool is to be known as the "Johnson fund," and a committee was appointed this afternoon at a meeting of the Seaside Club, the largest negro organization in the city, to get out subscription lists and circulate them among the colored population of this place.

Already ten of the leading colored citizens of the city have subscribed \$1,000 apiece, while an aggregate of \$15,000 more has been subscribed in smaller sums, and the lists have been open only a few hours. Many of those whose funds are low at the present time are contemplating making the committee in charge of the collection of the funds a sort of savings bank and place a certain amount of their earnings with them each week from now until the day of the fight. If Johnson wins the scrap the colored population of Boston will no doubt be \$100,000 richer, and maybe then some, than they were before their champion entered the ring.

### GOLF LINKS FOR ASHEVILLE.

**New Eighteen-Hole Course to Be Provided in Near Future.**  
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)  
Asheville, N. C., February 5.—The committee of the Board of Trade, Retail Merchants' Association and Country Club met recently and decided to recommend that an 18-hole golf course be provided. It was agreed that if the necessary land could be secured at a fair price, that sufficient acreage adjoining the present 9-hole links of the Country Club be obtained to make an 18-hole course, but if not that experts should be secured to give an opinion as to the best place to locate new links.

A decided increase in the number of Northern tourists has come in the last few days.

### JEFF TO VISIT HOT SPRINGS.

**Will Spend a Month Taking Baths Before Starting to Train.**  
Hot Springs, Ark., February 5.—James J. Jeffries will take a month in the hot water baths here as a preliminary to his active training for the Johnson fight. Local sport promoters to-day were advised that Frank Hatch, Dr. Rolier and Jeffries would arrive

at the end of their present engagement, about February 6, and spend a month. Colic and Dr. Rolier will appear in the program, but Jeffries will devote his entire time to the hot water baths and mountain climbing.

At the time Hot Springs will be the Mecca of major league ball players also, the Cincinnati, Boston Americans, Pittsburgh and Brooklyn teams having spring training quarters engaged.

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## DATES ARE SET FOR RACE MEET

Los Angeles Motordrome to Be Opened With Great Furor.

### FIRST WOODEN "SAUCER"

Many Foremost Drivers Have Signed to Compete in Opening Events.

Los Angeles, February 5.—Dates have been set for the opening carnival of the new Los Angeles Motordrome and sanctioned by the American Automobile Association and Manufacturers' Contest Association. Seven days of sensational speed contests will take place on the first wooden saucer ever built, for motor-car racing, on April 5, 9, 10 and during the following week, on April 12, 15, 16 and 17. At the recent automobile shows in New York City, all of the well-known racing drivers, who were among the visitors, announced that they will drive at the new motordrome, and all spoke most enthusiastically of the idea of racing on a board track. This course is being built by Jack Prince, the famous builder of bicycle saucers.

It will be one mile in circumference and a true circle instead of the usual oval, which will mean that drivers will not have to slacken speed on account of turns. In width, the track will measure seventy-five feet, and will be uniformly banked to a height of twenty-five feet all around its outer edge.

Drivers claim that all track records will be broken and that it will be the safest course in the world. Expert engineers as well as pilots of cars, endorse it most strongly, chiefly because of the slight heating effect the surface will have on tires, the coefficient of friction between wood and rubber being much better than between rubber and any other surface. They declare that on such a banked course they will be no skidding.

Ralph De Palma, Lewis Strang and George Robertson, the three foremost racing pilots, have signed to drive at the inaugural, while at least a dozen other famous "daredevils" are arranging to get fast cars for the meet. F. E. Mesrobian, president of the Motordrome, was in New York last week, and was most pleased with the amount of interest that the East is taking in the new project.

### FIFTY GREATEST HORSES EARN FIVE MILLIONS

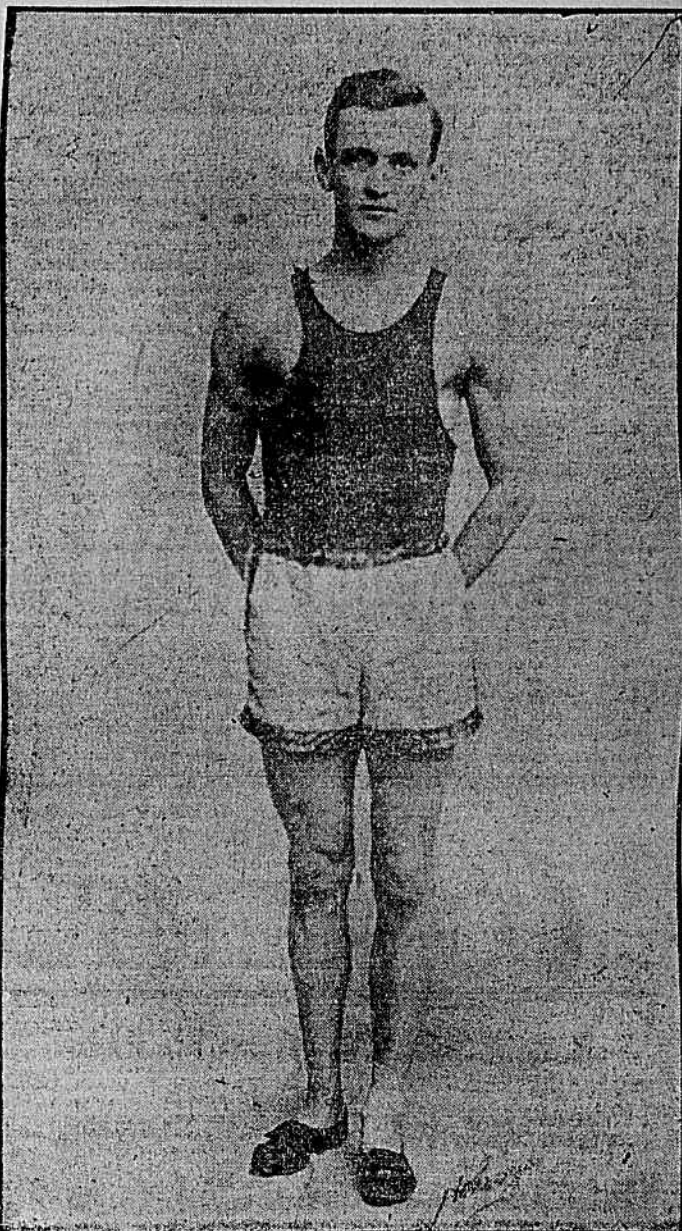
Lexington, Va., February 5.—Statistics recently compiled in this city show that the fifty largest money winning thoroughbreds on the American turf have combined won a total of \$5,359,950, an average of \$107,199 a head. Of the fifty largest money winners twenty-five have come within the circle of \$100,000 or over. Many of these horses, in fact, nearly half, were bred in Kentucky, with California, Tennessee and Missouri being well represented, and some few were bred in New York and Pennsylvania. Six were bred by James R. Keene, master of Castleton farm, they being Collin, Ballot, Delhi, Kingston, Peter Pan and Lamplighter, their combined earnings amounting to \$806,920.

Four were bred by James B. Haggin, they being Sir Walter, Tournament, Africander and Ornament. Three each were bred by Dan Swigert and Charles Reed, the former being the breeder of the mighty Salvator, Firenze, the latter being the sire of the mighty Major T. J. Carson, John E. Madden, Clay and Woodford, General W. G. Harding, August Belmont and R. H. Hancock have bred two each. Major Carson has to his credit Roseben and Highball; Clay and Woodford, Raceland and Hanover; General Harding, Tammany and Prosper; August Belmont, Beldame and Fair Play; J. E. Madden, Sir Martin and King James, and Mr. Hancock, Russell and Diablo.

The fifty largest money winners of the American turf are: Domino, Collin, Sysonby, Ballot, Kingston, Sir Walter, Raceland, Hanover, Salvator, Delhi, Miss Woodford, Potomac, Peter Pan, Sirathmeath, Banquet, Tammany, Firenze, His Highness, Dobbins, Tournament, Africander, Major Daingerfield, Irish Lad, Beldame, Roseben, Los Angeles, Salvadore, Lo Tambern, Lamplighter, Tenney, Ornament, Yorkville, John B. Beldame, Requital, Fair Belle, Hermis, King James, The Bard, Russell, Parole, Fretcor Knott, Longstreet, Artful, Sir Martin, Tanya, Judge Morrow, Volante, Diabola, Badge and Highball.

There is the only mare that has produced two of the fifty largest money winners, she being the dam of Yorkville and Dobbins. Forty-three of the fifty are represented by these fifty stallions, only seven stallions having sired as many as two in the list. They are Commando, sire of Collin and Peter Pan; Spendthrift, sire of Kingston and Lamplighter; Billee, sire of Raceland and Miss Woodford; Glenelg,

## FAMOUS VIRGINIA HURLER



**LARRY MARTIN.**  
The announcement that Martin will confine himself particularly to hurdles has caused general interest in the track world, and many believe he will develop such form that he will be picked to uphold America's end in the Olympic games. He will take part in the track meet here next Saturday and will try the hurdles for fifty yards.

sire of Firenze and Los Angeles; Ben Strome, sire of Roseben and Highball; Longstreet, sire of The Bard and Longstreet; and The III Uch, sire of His Highness and Badge.

## GIRLS IN EXCITING BASKETBALL GAME

State Normal, of Farmville, De-feats College Widows 20 to 14.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Lexington, Va., February 5.—The fastest girls' game of basketball ever played in Lexington was pulled off this afternoon between the State Normal team, of Farmville, and the College Widows, of Lexington, the visitors winning by the score of 20 to 14. The State Normal team was unusually strong, and showed excellent coaching.

Misses Baldwin, Freeman and Glaves were special stars for the visitors. Miss Turner, of the home team, was handicapped by a sprained ankle. The line-up was as follows:

Lexington. Positions. Farmville.

Miss E. Gadsden, L. F. Miss B. Paullett.

Miss H. Webster, R. F. Miss Baldwin, (Miss Turner) C. Miss Freeman, Miss Rogers, S. C. Miss Gilliam, Miss Howe, S. C. Miss V. Paullett, Miss Bruce, R. G. Miss Price, Miss E. Webster, L. G. Miss Glaves, Substitutes for State Normal, Misses Sophia Booker and Lottie Thorpe. Referee, Smart. Linesmen, Hanis and Gordon, W. L. U. Time of halves, 15 minutes.

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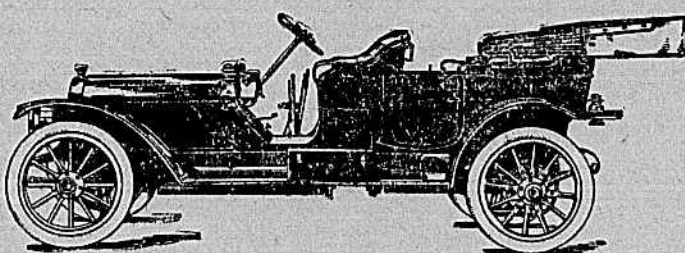
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